



**AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®**

600 Maryland Avenue S.W. • Suite 800 • Washington, DC • 20024 • (202)406-3600 • fax (202)406-3604 • www.fb.org

July 14, 2004

The Honorable Robert Zoellick  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Room 209A  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The American Farm Bureau Federation supports the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

American agriculture currently maintains a positive trade balance with Morocco. We commend USTR for negotiating an agreement that will maintain this trade balance as well as provide opportunities to increase U.S. agriculture sales to this market. Our trade analysis shows that the U.S. agricultural trade surplus with Morocco under this agreement could reach \$382 million by 2015 with approximately \$260 million of this surplus related to increased sales directly attributed to the improved access provided under the agreement. Morocco would be expected to increase its trade by \$25 million. U.S. agriculture would see roughly a 10-to-one gain from this agreement.

We also commend you and your staff for negotiating the preference clause and the sanitary/phytosanitary equivalency provisions. We view these provisions as establishing precedents for future agreements. The preference clause would grant the United States market access provisions that will be at least as good as the terms of any future agreements Morocco enters into with other countries. This helps ensure U.S. agriculture will be able to maintain its competitiveness in the Moroccan market.

Additionally, Morocco's willingness to accept U.S. sanitary and phytosanitary inspection standards for beef and poultry will help streamline and expedite the sales of these products to Morocco. Prior to this agreement, U.S. access for beef and poultry were minor to non-existent, but under the agreement not only are they granted access but also difficult inspection concerns have been overcome.

We appreciate your efforts in negotiating a good deal for U.S. agriculture under the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement and encourage you to work with Congress to approve this agreement before the summer recess.

Sincerely,



Bob Stallman  
President

cc: Ambassador Al Johnson